

the CORACLE

News from the Diocese of Truro



DECEMBER 2012

20p

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Discovering God's Kingdom

Seeking the heart of Christmas



SO WHAT is your favourite part of Christmas?

It will, of course, be different for different people. We are all different and that is what makes the world go round. Thank God for our differences and for the way in which we complement each other in so many ways.

It is also true that our differences can also be difficult and causetrouble. When we

want to do one thing and someone wants to do the opposite, how do we discern who is right?

We live in a 'global village'. At Christmas time this becomes even more obvious as people travel all over to see family and friends – and with the wonders of technology,

people are in touch with each other through Skype or FaceTime or even the old fashioned telephone! The world is a very small place and our differences and similarities go to make up a fascinating mix of people with different background, cultures, views and opinions.

Right at the heart of Christmas, these differences and similarities play their part both in underlining what Christmas is all about and in reinforcing the tensions and potential problems that Christmas leave us with.

The message of Christmas is that Christ became human. The incarnation reminds us

Churchyard **ash trees** – be vigilant

FOLLOWING the discovery of Chalara fraxinea or 'ash die-back' in mature woodland in Suffolk, the Government has banned all imports of live ash trees. The disease causes leaf loss and crown die-back in affected trees, and can lead ultimately to tree death. It has the potential to kill millions of ash trees if it becomes widely established in Britain.

Ash makes up around 40 per cent of our native woodland in some areas and it is commonly found in our churchyards. It vital, therefore, that any new instances of the disease are reported to the Forestry Commission as a matter of urgency.

What are the signs?

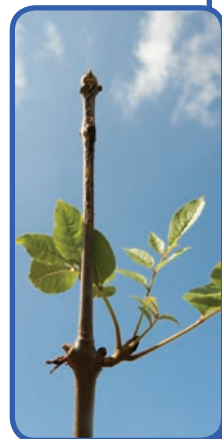
The signs of the disease include:

- black/brown discolouration of the leaf base and midrib
- small lens-shaped lesions or black spots on the bark of stems and branches
- trees with withered tops and shoots.

What should you do?

If you find signs of the disease, take photographs and contact the Forestry Commission Plant Health Service on 0131 314 6414, immediately.

Even if you do not find signs of infection, this does not mean that your trees will remain unaffected in the long term. Monthly inspections are recommended until further guidance is received from the Government.



For further information, visit the Forestry Commission's website, www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara or e-mail plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

that God loves the whole world. He was born a Jew, visited by lowly shepherds and shown to visiting wise people from foreign parts. Within a short time God makes the point that this gift – the most important gift of all – is for all people and places. Christ does not belong to one particular part or tribe or race.

Yet at the same time Christians have found numerous ways of falling out with each other, and with other religions, and the rest of the world. Christmas attempts, at one and the same time, to bring everyone together and yet makes the distinct point that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.

For many, the best part of Christmas is when the front door shuts and you are left with just your closest family and you can enjoy their company – at least for a short while.

At the heart of Christmas is the conundrum that with the birth of a baby all sorts of difficulties and troubles begin, and humans continue to discover new ways of falling out, and misunderstanding, and appearing to revel in argument and faction fighting.

No wonder we pray for peace at Christmas. Christmas is a wonderful time of year. The message at the heart of this season is the miracle that God loves us all. The biggest miracle for us is to be brave and accept that love – and the consequences that we are not the ones who choose our brothers and sisters, but God who loves us, loves us all. He chooses them and we are left with the apparently impossible task of living with them.

✘ Tim



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Candle-lit cup cakes at Cathedral's celebration

On Saturday 3 November, Truro Cathedral celebrated the 125th anniversary of its dedication with a Birthday Party, *writes Primrose Peacock.*

Everybody was invited and the damp, chilly weather encouraged attendance. I arrived at lunchtime to find two lines of stalls down the sides of the cleared main aisle, lots of people inspecting them and someone giving the grand piano a good hammering!

Although members of the congregation were in evidence, the majority of the crowd was unknown to me. Many of them were enjoying cup cakes handed out by the entrance from a table lit by 125 'cup-caked' candles.

There were tables to amuse and occupy children with arts and crafts and a bouncy castle in the north transept.

It was quickly apparent that this was not just a party for 'the faithful', but a well-planned outreach programme. The 'stalls' were not charities that, at this time of year can become rather too pushy; but rather departments of the Cathedral and Diocese strutting their stuff! Information was offered, advice given and publications displayed, including the latest edition of *The Coracle*.

Revd Dr Stephen Dawes and his wife were promoting the 'Windows Into...' educational

courses, and Drs Philip and Anne Stevens, The 'Friends'; while the Children's Church teachers had produced examples and artefacts related to their classes and the 'Inspire Cornwall' project exhibited a model of the proposed adaptation of the old choir school.

Most other 'departments', including the Mother's Union and the Choir, had a spot and someone knowledgeable able to answer questions. Up in the Sanctuary there was a display of vestments and ladies sitting round a table quietly repairing a cope.

The clergy mingled, talked to guests and answered their questions; and then, just before 3pm, announcements were made and plastic chairs whisked out so that the large congregation could participate in a brief Songs of Praise including short readings and prayers.

The Dean gave an explanatory address focusing on the subject of 'walls' – that could be built to keep people out or enclose them. He emphasised that the Cathedral doors were open to all, and that religious worship had moved on from 125 years ago.

And then he sent us on our way by quoting from 2 Samuel 6.17-19: 'David . . . blessed the people in the name of the Lord of Hosts and distributed food . . . to both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes'.

"Now please take your cake and go home," Dean Roger concluded!



Photo: Paul Richards

Squaring the Circle on Creation



Stephen Dawes
Canon Theologian

I HAVE talked in this column before about the odd idea that Richard Dawkins and his chums put around – that Science and Religion are incompatible. I've also talked about the modern, American-led, heresy of Christian Fundamentalism – taking the Bible literally.

That heresy is a gift to Dawkins, because he can then go around saying that Christians believe all those things about the Bible that the Fundamentalists believe. And most of us don't. And it's all very sad because it brings Christianity into disrepute and gets in the way of evangelism and good religion.

The big question is the Bible and Creation. And here Dawkins and Christian Fundamentalists believe exactly the same thing about Genesis chapter 1, and they are both wrong. They then come to opposite conclusions from it, and they are both wrong there too.

Both Dawkins and the Fundamentalists – especially the hardliners who call themselves 'Creationists' of one kind or another – believe that Genesis 1 is a scientific account of creation and that it conflicts with Evolution. That's mistake number one. They usually call Genesis 1 the 'Bible Account of Creation', and that is mistake number two.

Then they draw opposite conclusions. Dawkins concludes that Genesis 1 is a wrong and untrue scientific account of creation; the Creationists conclude that Evolution is a wrong and untrue scientific account of creation. Mistake number three.

Mainstream Christians, on the other hand, do not start where these two antagonists start. First, they do not believe that Genesis 1 is a scientific account of creation, and so they do not conclude that it conflicts with Evolution. Instead, they think that Genesis 1 is a theological account of creation and conclude that it must be read theologically.

So they look at what it says about God and the meaning of life, the universe and everything. And second, they know that there are at least four

other creation pictures or stories or parables in the Bible which are different from the one in Genesis 1.

Let's have a quick look at the others.

Straight after the 'Designer World' parable in Genesis 1 with its seven days of creation picture comes the 'Gardeners' World' story in Genesis 2-3 which is nowhere near as neat and tidy and which has details in different order from the chapter before. That's enough to make you stop and think.

Then there's snippets of a very ancient creation story of the King of Creation's battle with the Chaos Monster in Psalms 74.12-17 and 89.5-18 and Isaiah 51.9-11 and bits elsewhere. Quite different. Different again is the picture of creation as the work of Wisdom, God's playmate or agent, in Proverbs 3.19 and 8.22-31 and elsewhere.

Then there's more in the New Testament. There's John's mighty Prologue that we shall read over Christmas, in which the Logos (the 'Word') is responsible for Creation (John 1.1-18); and the amazing Hymn to Christ as Creator in Colossians 1.15-20.

Fundamentalists have to make all those different pictures agree, and it can't be done. Mainstream Christians see the richness, variety and diversity in the Bible's thinking about creation and the life of the world, and it's because of this variety that I have used the words 'picture', 'story' and 'parable' for these Bible passages.

I have deliberately avoided the word 'account' or 'accounts' as these sound too 'scientific' and can encourage that completely unnecessary debate about the Bible and Evolution.

The trouble with both Richard Dawkins and the Christian Fundamentalists of the Creationist 'varieties' is that they don't read the Bible carefully enough or take it seriously enough.

Out & about



THERE WAS an air of excitement at Trelowarren as nearly 50 people from as far afield as Pendeen, Penzance and Truro gathered to share ideas and to celebrate Open the Book, writes Jane Redrup.

The evening was the inspiration of the Lizard Outreach Trust (LOT), who generously provided the wonderful welcoming venue, and refreshments – including an amazing cake, complete with Noah's Ark, made by Jan Waring.

Vicky Allen, a LOT trustee, introduced presentations by various teams from The Lizard, starting with a hilarious interpretation of the Creation. Cosmic elements were followed by an avalanche of

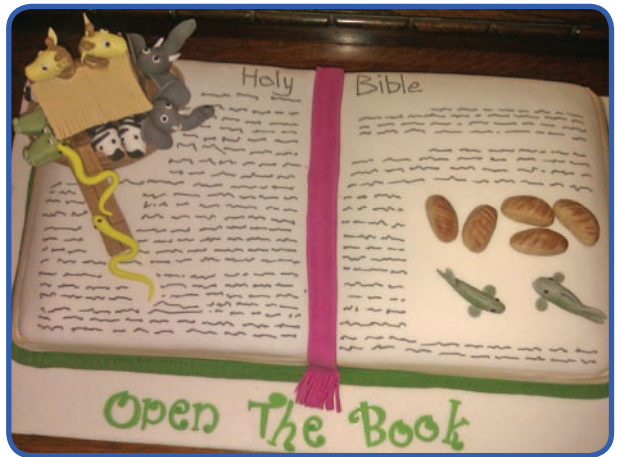
Sharing OTB best practice

animals, birds and insects of all kinds, and lastly Adam and Eve rising from the earth. In other scenes, the Ark rose above moving waters; we were all fed from a few loaves; and a startling shoal of fish jumped into fishing nets.

These stories were intermingled with songs, and various actions and sound effects. There was much applause, laughter and sheer enjoyment shown by all who attended.

Many groups had brought props to share, and the library was filled with Goliaths, angels on staircases, camels, and the walls of Jericho – to name but a few. Sarah Welply provided an information stall, and Alex Govier entertained us with some beautiful music.

It was a very happy evening, full of laughter and fun, and a real sense of joy and enthusiasm as we seek to serve God in such a fruitful and imaginative way.



At home this Christmas?

MANY UK-based international students will be alone this Christmas and would love to celebrate with you. Inviting a student to stay will make him or her feel welcome here. Learn about other cultures, meet new people and make the world a little friendlier! To find out more about volunteer hosting at Christmas – or any weekend of the year – visit www.hostuk.org or call regional organiser, Margaret Stevens, on 01736 719090.



Three new prebendaries

AN HISTORIC event in the life of the Collegiate Church of St Endellion took place on Sunday 28 October when three new prebendaries were installed during the Sung Eucharist to celebrate the Feast of SS Simon and Jude.

Those installed were Revd Professor Paul Fiddes, professor of systematic theology at Oxford University, the church's first ecumenical prebendary; Canon Judith Pollinger, the first woman prebendary; and Mr David Foster, the first lay prebendary.

Prebendaries of St Endellion are required to pray regularly for one another and, where possible, to share the daily saying of morning and evening prayer; they are to help make St Endellion a strong centre of spiritual community; to further the mission of St Endellion as a centre for arts and spirituality within the diocese; and to support the Companions of St Endellion in their work of prayer and fellowship.

In the absence of Bishop Tim, the new prebendaries were sworn in by Prebendary John May, Rector, and installed by Revd Professor Andrew Lewis.



New prebendaries (from left): Revd Professor Paul Fiddes, Canon Judith Pollinger and Mr David Foster.

Marazion in final contemporary art line-up

BY THE TIME you read this, the winning entries in the Jerusalem Trust Prize for Commissioning New Art in Churches will have been announced at a prize-giving ceremony at the Church of St Stephen, Walbrook, in the City of London.

The competition, with a £10,000 prize fund to take the commission forward, was launched a year ago by the Church Buildings Council of the Church of England to encourage parish churches to engage their communities in thinking about a high quality contemporary artwork in any medium to add to the beauty and significance of their church building.

Fifty parishes responded to the first stage of the competition and 11 were long-listed to work up portfolios for the second stage, which was celebrated at the ceremony, with representatives of all 11 present. The parishes, from across the length and breadth of the country, included All Saints, Marazion.

The parish's commissioning group included the Mayor, the local publican and art gallery owner, and this group gave serious consideration to the work of three local artists in looking for a potential sculpture to be located to the right of one of the altars.

Fewer people, greater responsibilities

Esther Pollard has been appointed as Diocesan Secretary and is bringing her own, more open and optimistic style of management to the role. She has business experience gleaned from previous jobs across the world and summarises her position: "Together with my loyal, hard-working team, I am here to provide support in areas of statutory obligations, administration, financial and strategic needs to the Bishop, clergy and all paid staff, as well as those thousands of volunteers who give their time so freely."



The post of Diocesan Treasurer has been culled; so Michael Kent has been promoted to Financial Director and will apply his wealth of 'hands-on' experience (gleaned over x years as Diocesan Accountant) to provide more direct input into strategic financial planning and the development of the more flexible approach needed these days in order to match the pace of change in the 'outside world'.

Shelley Porter has been appointed as our Discipleship Project Officer and will be working mostly from Archdeacon Audrey's home office in Bodmin. Shelley's key responsibilities are built around providing administrative support to Archdeacon Audrey.



In addition, she will provide administrative support for some committees including FEaD (Formation Education and Discipleship) and DLT (Discipleship, Learning and Training Committee). Furthermore, Shelley will assist with the promotion of the Way of Life initiative and also be the main point of contact for diocesan discipleship courses, administration and development

Leaner, meaner, **better** service

Roadshow delegates was how useful the 'market-place' had been in opening their eyes to the full range of services provided by the Diocesan House team and how good it was to put faces to names, *writes Esther Pollard.*

It was over two years ago, as austerity measures began to bite, that we were challenged to become more 'fit for purpose'; and by adopting new ways of working, adapting to the fast-moving demands of parishes and improving the services we provide, a steady evolution has occurred, such that we are now much more aligned with the actual needs rather than what we believed those needs might be.

There has been a matching of resources to meet the required needs – with, for example, higher profile, dedicated resourcing for treasurers as they earnestly endeavour to provide our life blood

A COMMON THREAD in the feedback from this year's

of Local Worship Leader training, as well as continuing her work on Messy Church and Open the Book support.

Sarah Welply has been appointed as our Project Officer and will remain working at Diocesan House on a part-time basis of three days a week. Her role will revolve around taking a lead in promoting and enabling discipleship of young people and fulfilling administrative duties relating to Local Pastoral Ministers' courses and commissioning.

Rebecca 'Becky' St Ledger-Renfree has taken on additional responsibilities as our IT trouble-shooter and will also deal with any queries regarding a Church Near You website. She will continue to support the front office team in addition to her work around the website and the e-Bulletin.

In addition to being Administrative Assistant in the front office, Rosey Sanders is looking forward to her new role as Admin Support Worker (one day a week) for Transformation Cornwall, where she will be providing administrative cover for the team, in particular with the development of databases and assisting with an audit of faith-based community projects in Cornwall.

Sue Thorold, who is our DAC Secretary, has taken on extra responsibilities in the field of CRB administration.

Clare Jones who is the Secretary to the Diocesan Secretary has been given additional responsibilities around supporting both Archdeacons.

Lesley Fusher has been appointed Assistant Diocesan Secretary and will be providing day-to-day support on routine/delegated matters. The role of Secretary to the Archdeacons no longer exists as the role has evolved over the years. We will continue to provide elements of administrative support to both Archdeacons

Suzanne Kerr has joined Donna Hazell and Matthew Williams as Administrative Assistant to strengthen the service element in the Parsonages Department.

Support for Church Schools

Times are rapidly changing and the work of the Education Team at Diocesan House is being shaped by new agendas and pressures, the most significant being Academies and small school sustainability.

A significant number of Church of England schools are facing changing and challenging circumstances and the team also supports, advises and guides them; provides training opportunities for teachers and governors; and works with them as they sustain and develop their Christian ethos and foundation.

The January edition of The Coracle will feature Education as a major topic.

MMF (Mission and Ministry Fund); more support for Mission Action Planning and stewardship; a focus on improving communication channels, especially in the development of electronic media; and a step change in the availability and uptake of lay ministerial training and outreach initiatives, such as 'Open the Book' and 'Messianic Church'.

We are working in a rapidly evolving environment which requires more flexible responsive arrangements. And with Bishop Tim's three criteria now firmly in place – discipleship, ministry team development and embracing change – there is a further need for reviewing and matching of skills and resources not only to where we are now, but also to support the areas in which there is growth and increasing service requirement in the medium-term.

This is new territory for us at Diocesan House and marks the tipping point from being a reactive organisation to a proactive one, in which we are much more involved in the empowerment of local church communities and the facilitation of their plans as they develop their ministry teams.

A year with **St Luke**

Rev'd Alan Bashforth reflects...

FOR ACCOUNTANTS it is 6 April. For most of the rest of us, it is accompanied by fancy dress costumes and the tolling of Big Ben as a prelude to 1 January. Yet for the Church it is always somewhere around the end of November or the beginning of December.

New Year's Day comes to the world in a number of forms and this year for us it is Sunday 2 December, the date on which Advent Sunday falls and the Christian year begins.

In terms of lectionaries – those books found in the corner of vestries that tell us what readings we are to have in church each week – It is the beginning of Year C, the year of St Luke.

If you have not worked it out yet, the lectionary provides us with a three-year cycle of readings, and in each year we focus on a particular Gospel – Year A Matthew; Year B, Mark; Year C, Luke; and just in case you are now worried that John does not get a look in, you need to know that we do read John around and about the great festivals of the Christian year and as a bit of a supplement to Mark in Year B.

But what of Luke?

What can we say about him and his book? Well, to begin with, long before *The Empire Strikes Back* or *Jaws 2*, he provides us with the concept of a 'sequel' in the Acts of the Apostles; for whatever may be said about the authorship of the Third Gospel, few would argue with the notion that the writer of Luke was also the writer of Acts, simply because they so closely share a literary style.

The phrase 'whatever may be said about



the authorship of the third Gospel' is a bit of a loaded one so perhaps I should try and explain further. It is a fact that when we look back at early manuscripts of the Gospels they rather inconveniently do not have the author's name appended to them. That they are by Matthew, Mark, Luke and someone called John cannot be read off the page but rather emerges from tradition.

In Luke's case, we look to the grandly entitled Anti-Marcionite Prologue to the Gospel of Luke that had its origins somewhere between the 2nd and 4th centuries, to discover the tradition that is Luke from Antioch and a

sometime companion of St Paul who took on the task of giving an account of his Christian faith to 'most excellent Theophilus' (Luke 1.1-4, Acts 1.1-2).

Fortunately, the evidence does not end there because we do have a few mentions of Luke in the New Testament itself. In Colossians 4.14, he is described as 'the beloved physician', the phrase that has ever associated his name with the medical profession; while in both Philemon v.24 and in 2 Timothy 4.11 he is again found alongside St Paul.

The clinching piece of evidence that convinces some – including me – that Luke is the most likely author of the Gospel and Acts comes from studying Acts itself and noticing that in chapters 16, 20, 21, 27 and 28 the author slips into the first person plural and in the so called 'we' passages describes his own presence at the events. If it does not, therefore, sound too ridiculous, I want to argue that Luke really was by Luke – an educated companion of St Paul

who took on this particular task of chronicling the life of Jesus and the birth of the earliest Church.

What can we say of his Gospel?

It is often said to be the Gospel that expresses the greatest concern for – and solidarity with – the marginalised. It is Luke who has Jesus visited by shepherds (Luke 2.8-20) who some would say were considered as beyond the pale by the religious authorities of their day.

It is Luke who provides us with the story of Mary and Martha (10.38-42) and depicts Jesus as challenging the culture of his day by teaching women – and in his beatitudes (6.20-22), it is Luke who has Jesus making his promises to the materially poor and physically hungry rather than to the religiously pious who are perhaps more in view in the beatitudes of Matthew (Matthew 5.1-12).

Beyond that, there are many stories that the Gospel authors share but some that are unique to each and without the stories and parables that only Luke offers to us our faith would be impoverished indeed.

The Parable of the Prodigal Son (15.11-32) tells us something remarkable about the unconditional love of God and God's insatiable desire to bring the sinner to salvation. The Parable of the Good Samaritan (10.29-37) tells us something fundamental about the

responsibility we have to reflect the love of God and the inclusive nature of that love; while the 'Road to Emmaus' (24.13-32) speaks of people discovering the presence of Jesus on a journey and reads for a good many as a metaphor of their lives.

Finally, with a little help from the translating pen of Thomas Cranmer, Luke is the Tim Rice of the Anglican tradition, providing us with the lyrics to some of our best songs. Giving us 'My Soul doth magnify the Lord' (1.46), 'Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace' (2.29) and 'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel' (1.68). He has offered to us words now written on many of our hearts that sustain us in the rhythm of our lives.

Luke was clearly in his life a valued companion of Paul and he will bring much to us of value as we journey with him in this coming year.

Alan Bashforth is the Vicar of St Agnes and Mount Hawke with Mithian, Priest in Charge of St Clement, Truro and St Andrew's Malpas, and in his 'spare' time he teaches New Testament to Readers in Training.



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Fifties recalled

IT IS AMAZING what can happen when one person has an idea, writes *Revd Elizabeth Foot*.

Gillian Farrell thought that it would be good to celebrate the Jubilee Year with an exhibition of memorabilia from the 1950s. So Zennor was scoured for any items still lurking from that time. The result was astounding.

With Tony Farrell's help, the church was transformed in to a 1950s house with everything displayed very neatly in rooms. Wonderful photographs of the village celebrating the Coronation, clothes of the era – even fabrics and a wedding dress – had been carefully preserved.

For those of us who dare to admit that we lived through the 50s, it was quite an emotional experience – seeing the reading books and toys that had filled our childhood. The kitchen utensils and tools so lovingly cared for brought back many happy memories too.

The school room was transformed into a 1950s tea room with beautifully embroidered table clothes and aprons and magnificent homemade cakes – sufficient to destroy any diet!

Thank you so much to everyone who gave of their time and treasured items to provide so much joy to so many people by bringing back such happy memories.



Letter to the Editor Can anyone shed some light on blackouts?

I HAVE just located some WWII photographs of the blackout screens covering the 20-plus, giant stained glass windows of St Martin's Parish Church, Liskeard – fixtures that, apparently, could not be drawn back.

It would be interesting to learn if such pictures exist of the Cathedral (or other churches) draped with blackout curtains or screens – quite a task putting them up and making the building so terribly dark!

One wonders if services were only held during the daylight hours, or with Evensong continued as before?

Duncan Paul Matthews
St Cleer

New Course begins February 2013

Revd Dave Elkington writes about **Way of Life – Journeying Out**

MANY CHURCHES in Britain have now embraced the notion of the 'mixed economy' church. This sees the future of the church as comprised of two kinds of churches:

- our ongoing forms, structures and styles; and
- some 'Fresh Expressions' of Christian faith – new congregations appropriate to those who have little or no background in the church.

These new congregations typically centre on the shared life of the members, and are not as focused on the traditional models of pastoral ministry, or hierarchical leadership.

To prepare and support people for ministry in 'pioneer' churches, teaching and learning resources have been created nationally to support local courses. This mission-shaped ministry course consists of 24 learning sessions, access to an online database of material, and the support of a mentor for those who are planning, starting or continuing a 'Fresh Expression'.

It is hoped that by the third term most participants will be engaged in some form of Fresh Expressions 'initiative'. Group work in this term will focus much more on real case studies from participants.

The Way of Life – Journeying Out Course is a local adaptation which gives a wide range of Christians in Cornwall the opportunity to develop their discipleship within the context of pioneer mission.

Our primary aim is to support Christians to be involved in 'pioneer' styles of church and ministry. But those whose calling is to remain in traditional churches will also benefit from growing in their faith in this 'missional' context, giving their churches a sharper mission edge within today's cultural setting.

So, the Journeying Out Course is a discipleship course for any Christian concerned about the future of the Church. The training programme includes Bible study, prayer and worship, so that the programme develops depth of Christian discernment and spirituality, not just extending knowledge and understanding.

The course is designed for ordained and lay people working together. The future life and ministry of the church is a shared task, and the course seeks to model this.

Course delivery

The course will be delivered from February to June 2013 and will consist of one weekend 'residential' in Newquay (Friday pm to Sunday lunchtime), and three Saturdays (10 - 4pm) and five Monday evenings (7.30 - 9.15pm) all based in Bodmin.

You are asked to commit yourself to the whole of the course, as each person forms part of a small 'peer learning group' to support each other's learning and personal development. You are invited to 'journey' with some of your fellow participants. This is committed discipleship not just a series of interesting sessions about mission.

Costs

The total cost of the course will be £235 and some financial assistance will be available. This year the course will be based in Bodmin, but next year we hope to run the course further down West.

For further information, contact Canon Dave Elkington on 01208 892811 or e-mail djelk@btinternet.com

COMING UP

Tereba Nessa – 'Until Next Time'

Rev'd Jane Kneebone asks...

HAVE YOU ever been to a service in the Cornish language?

Those who have tell me that it's a surprisingly moving experience. Services take place throughout the year to celebrate all the major festivals and main Cornish saints' days.

Arranged by the Bishop's Ecumenical Group for Services in Cornish, they are held in churches and chapels all over the county, and for me they are always prayerful and joyful occasions.

For Cornish speakers, it's an opportunity to get together and use the language we love, to worship God. For those who don't speak the language, the services are still accessible, because the service sheets

are always bi-lingual so you know exactly what's going on. They say it's easy to sing in Cornish, and we do plenty of that!

We have our own choir, Tereba Nessa – 'Until Next Time' – who lead the worship. Some of us speak Cornish, and some don't, but we all manage to enjoy the singing. We are a small but dedicated bunch, and we need extra members for all parts.

Rehearsals are held every Tuesday evening from 7 - 9 pm in Bridge Methodist Chapel, near Portreath. If you feel you'd like to join us, please come along. Help is given with pronunciation, and you will know all the tunes!

If you don't fancy singing in the choir, why not just come along and experience our own language being used in worship this Christmas?



Photo: Brian Sidwell

2 December: 3pm Budock Parish Church, Advent Service

16 December: 3pm St Ives Methodist Chapel, Christmas Service

30 December: 3pm Bridge Methodist Chapel (Nr Portreath), Christmas Service

6 January: 3pm Gulval Parish Church, Epiphany

Breakfasts in Fowey

FOWEY CHURCH arranges Men's Breakfasts on the second Saturday of every month, and there has been increasing interest since these were mentioned at a recent Roadshow, *writes Al Trenary*.

We enjoy fellowship over a full, cooked breakfast before listening to a talk and discussing its contents. We meet in the Fowey Gallants Sailing Club, right by the river at 8.15, and finish around 9.30.

The topics for 8 December and 12 January respectively are: "Isn't religion just culture?" and "Why are Christians so hung up & old fashioned about sex?"

To book a breakfast, please call me on 01726 832945 or Ewan Cameron on 01726 833641, by the previous Wednesday.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVALS

Breage Church

14th - 16th December 'CHRISTMAS CAROLS'

Fri Dec 14th 10 - 4pm

Lunchtime Children's Choir

Sat Dec 15th Stalls, crafts, raffle & lucky dips.

Refreshments both days

Sun 16th 2 - 4pm Cream teas.

6pm Carol Service with Breage Band

St Petroc's Church, Bodmin.

10TH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

70 decorated Trees

5th - 19th December

Daily except Sunday 10.30 - 4.30pm

Refreshments, carol services, concerts & choirs.

Full details from The Rectory

01208 73867 or 01208 72635.

All Saints Parish Church, Falmouth

'CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD'

17th - 31st December

Daily 10 - 7pm (Closed 25th & 26th)

Refreshments, easy access, all welcome.

SS Nicholas & Faith Church, Saltash

NOW IN OUR 7TH YEAR

BIGGER AND BRIGHTER

1st - 12th December

Saltash Ladies Choir, handbell ringers, bazaar and refreshments. Check website for timings

www.saltashteamministry.org

Announcements

The Revd Canon Lynda Mary Barley MSc BA

at present Residentiary Canon and Pastor of the Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Truro and Assistant Curate of the Benefice of Truro Saint Mary to be also half-time Priest-in-Charge of Tresillian and Lamorran with Merther and St Michael Penkivel. She will be licensed by the Bishop of Truro at St Michael Penkivel on Friday 14th December at 7pm.

The following were appointed as new Prebendaries of St Endellion on Sunday 28th October:

The Revd Professor Paul Fiddes,

Professor of Systematic Theology at Oxford University.

The Revd Canon Judith Pollinger

Assistant Curate of the North Cornwall Cluster of Churches and Honorary Canon of Truro Cathedral.

Mr David Foster

The First Lay Prebendary.

The new Prebendaries were sworn in by Prebendary John May, Rector of the North Cornwall Cluster of Churches and were installed by the Revd Professor Andrew Lewis, Assistant Curate of the North Cornwall Cluster of Churches.

RESIGNATION

The Revd Canon Martyn Anthony Trembath BA Team

Rector of the Godrevy Team Ministry with effect from 6th January 2013. He will be taking up the post of Senior Chaplain in the Luton and Dunstable University Hospital in the Diocese of St Albans.

What's on

ST ENDELLION CHURCH

Sunday 9th December 6pm

Evening Worship with Taize chants by candlelight.

Sunday 11th January 2013 6pm

Evening Worship with Taize chants by candlelight.

St Sennen Parish Church

FESTIVAL OF MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS.

Sunday 2nd December 'Choral Music for Advent' by Laudate! conductor Neil Shepherd

Saturday 8th December 'Jazz in the Spirit in New Orleans style' by Winter Sunshine

Saturday 15 December Concert by Penzance Youth String Orchestra, conductor Tim Boulton

Friday 21 December 'What Sweeter Music' by Abendmusik, conductor Nigel Wicken

All concerts start at 7.30pm, tickets £5, refreshments available. Further info 01736 871587.

Truro Theological Society

'DARWIN, EVOLUTION AND GOD'.

Feb 7th, Cathedral Chapter House, 8pm.

Prof John Bryant, University of Exeter,

Admission £4, under-18s free.

WINDOWS INTO... CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

latest course, led by the Canon Theologian in Pearson Room at Truro Cathedral on Monday afternoons 2-4pm on Jan 21 & 28, Feb 4, 11 & 25 and March 4; and Wednesday evenings 7.30-9.30 on Jan 23 & 30, Feb 6, 20 & 27, and March 6. £10 for full course. No bookings necessary.

JORDAN TOUR 14th – 21st April 2013

with Worldwide Christian Travel. Cost £1380 incl flights, half board, guide, all excursions, entrance fees and gratuities, air-conditioned coach, airport taxes. Brochure & full details Revd Peter Paine, peterspaine@gmail.com; 01704809517.

For Sale

BUSKING FOR JESUS £3.95 + £1 postage

BUSKING SONG BOOK £68 + £5 postage

30 Gospel Songs with Backing

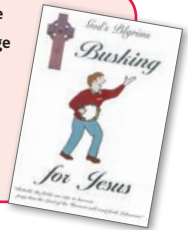
Music and Words annotated for Guitar

Obtainable from Mike Williams

Publicity & Promotion, Perrowford,

Trefusis Road, Redruth, TR15 2JN.

01209 213912



Wanted

WOOLLY HAT PROJECT has produced over 200 hats for the Mission to Seafarers in Falmouth. Sinbad's Christmas 12 is commencing now for anyone (and in the Cathedral on 1st December for three weeks.) Gifts in kind please for Christmas Day distribution to seafarers in Cornish Docks. Serious parish/school/group enquiries welcome. Contact Primrose Peacock pearose@mypostoffice.co.uk or 01872 276362 weekdays.

St Ives Parish Church ADDITIONAL SINGERS REQUIRED

For thriving traditional style, SATB robed choir Weekly Mass and monthly choral Evensong Traditional

Anglo-Catholic liturgy and music.

Details from Neil Shepherd

01736 759944 or visit www.stivesparishchurch.co.uk

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Truro Cathedral

December Dates

the CORACLE

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Last day for copy to Editor
1st December
(for January issue)

Epiphany House

www.epiphanyhousetruro.co.uk

Sunday 6th January FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

6pm Eucharist, followed by a light supper.
Bishop Tim will celebrate. Please contact if you wish to attend.

Saturday 19th January 'MONASTIC RHYTHM FOR BUSY LIVES'

Led by Revd Bridget Macaulay 10 - 4pm Full details on
Diocese of Truro website: www.trurodiocese.org.uk

Friday 25th - Sunday 27th January INDIVIDUALLY GUIDED RETREAT

Led by an ecumenical team of prayer guides.

For more information and to book a place on any of these events,
contact Epiphany House, Kenwyn, Truro TR1 3DR
Tel: 01872 272249 E-mail: epiphanyhouse@keme.co.uk

Saturday 1 World Aids Day
(at noon Children's Messy Table).

7.30pm. St Mary's Singers Concert with St Mary's
Orchestra and Penzance Youth String Orchestra.
Programme includes Benjamin Britten's St Nicholas and
Gerald Finzi's Dies Natalis. Tickets Hfc 01872 262 466.

Wednesday 5 7-9pm. Late Night Shopping incl
Cathedral's Christmas Shop, hot drinks, mince pies,
children's activities & musical entertainment.
(12th & 19th. Collection for St Petroc's Soc)

Thursday 6 7pm. BBC Radio Cornwall Christmas Concert.
Listen to BBC Radio Cornwall for details.

Friday 7 7.30pm. Truro's BIG Christmas Sing. Come
and sing your favourite carols for sheer enjoyment! All
Welcome. Free with collection for Christian Aid.

Saturday 8 7.30 pm. Three Spires Singers Christmas
Concert features Handel's The Messiah Tickets from Hfc
01872 262466.

Sunday 9 6pm. 'From Darkness to Light' Advent Carol
Service.

8pm. Open to Question – informal chance to reflect on
issues of Faith with Canon Dr Stephen Dawes in Pearson
Room. Free

Thursday 13 6pm. Polwhele House School Carol Service
6.30 for 7pm start, Friends Film Club in Screen 1 of
Pearson Room. Brief Encounter. Tickets £5 from Friends
Office 01872 274986.

Friday 14 2.30pm Diocesan MU Advent Carol Service in
St Mary's Aisle. All welcome.

Saturday 15 11-2pm Children's Messy Table, 7.30pm. 'O
Holy Night' celebration of Christmas with Truro Cathedral
Choir in association with Cornwall Today magazine, www.cornwalltoday.co.uk (Reserved seating). Tickets £10-18
from Hfc 01872 262466 or www.hallforcornwall.co.uk

Monday 17 7.30pm. Police & Fire Service Carol Service
Friday 21 7.30pm. Cornwall Young Farmers Carol Service
(Ticketed so apply with SAE to Cornwall YFC, Pavilion
Centre, Royal Cornwall Showground, Wadebridge, PL27
7JE).

Saturday 22 1pm. U3A Community Choir Informal
luncheon concert. Free

Sunday 23 4.30-6pm. CATHEDRAL CLOSED then at
7pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. This service IS
NOT ticketed for 2012. Access is via High Cross. Advisable
to queue early with doors opening at 6pm. No reserving
of seats is allowed.

Monday 24 4.30-6pm. CATHEDRAL CLOSED then at
7pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (as above).
Then Cathedral closed between 8.30-10.30pm. Opens at
11.30pm Midnight Mass Not ticketed.

Tuesday 25 10am. Christmas Day Service One of the
highlights of the year. Join Cathedral Choir and Bishop
Tim. Not ticketed.

Wednesday 26 CATHEDRAL OPENS AT 9.30am

Sunday 30 2pm. Children & Pets Carol Service fun-filled
carol service for two- and four-legged friends. No pet too
big, no child too small. Great fun.